(ii) There is also a proposal to intergrate the on-going Centrally sponsored schemes under a comprehensive Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for small and medium towns. The details of the scheme have not been finalized.

(iii) Finance Minister has also announced a provision of Rs. 1500 crore for "viability gap" funding for infrastructure projects. There is also a provision of Rs. 600 crore in the budget of Ministry of Urban Development for viability Gap Funding for Urban Infrastructure Projects for the year 2005-06.

(iv) Ministry of Urban Development also supports State Governments in seeking external assistance for Urban Water Supply and Sanitation projects and recommends them to Department of Economic Affairs (Ministry of Finance) for taking up with multilateral/bilateral agencies.

(b) Rules, procedures and other terms and conditions (including rate of interest) for grant of loans are decided by the Investment Committee and are reviewed every year in the beginning of the financial year in the case of Life Insurance Corporation of India. HUDCO reviews and revises the Floating Base Rate in respect of all infrastructure project loans, as and when necessary.

Setting up of Metropolitan Authority in Bangalore

*274. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has requested for setting up of a Metropolitan Authority for Bangalore to ensure co-ordination between the stakeholders of the civic amenities; and

(b) if so, the details of the action, if any, taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.